

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01026 240955Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 OMB-01
/113 W

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P R 240901Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6903
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 344
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1026

E.O. 11653: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION FEBRUARY 17-23

REF: BEIRUT 0909 (DTG 171620Z FEB 78)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK RELATIVE QUIET RETURNED TO THE
BEIRUT AREA. PIERRE GEMAYEL COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LACK OF
U.S. SUPPORT FOR LEBANON. THERE WAS HEIGHTENED SPECULATION
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ABOUT THE FORMATION OF A NEW CABINET, BUT CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND
PIERRE GEMAYEL INDICATED THE TIME DID NOT APPEAR OPPORTUNE.
END SUMMARY.

2. AFTERMATH OF FAYYADIYAH. RELATIVE QUIET HAS RETURNED TO
THE BEIRUT AREA, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR SECURITY
INCIDENTS SINCE CHRISTIAN MILITIA KILLED TWO SYRIAN

SOLDIERS IN FURN ASH-SHUBBAK ON FEBRUARY 15 AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODIES OF TWO DEAD SYRIAN SOLDIERS IN NABA ON FEBRUARY 16 (SEPTTEL). ALMOST ALL SCHOOLS IN EAST BEIRUT AND ITS SUBURBS HAVE REOPENED. THE MAIN SECTION OF THE DAMASCUS ROAD IN FRONT OF FAYYADIYAH BARRACKS WAS OPENED FOR BRIEF PERIODS, BUT GENERALLY REMAINED CLOSED.

3. PIERRE GEMAYEL COMPLAINS ABOUT U.S. POLICY. SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER ON FEBRUARY 18, PHALANGE CHIEF PIERRE GEMAYEL SAID THAT "WE WANT THE USA AND USSR TO HELP LEBANON REBUILD AND RECONSTRUCT HERSELF," ACCORDING TO RIGHTIST LE REVEIL. HE ADDED THAT "I HOPE THAT I AM MISTAKEN IN FINDING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT ASSUMED ITS FULL RESPONSIBILITIES IN PRESERVING LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY IN LEBANON."

4. RUMORS OF NEW CABINET. THE RETURN TO RELATIVE CALM HAS HEIGHTENED SPECULATION ABOUT THE FORMATION OF A NEW CABINET. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 20 THAT A NEW CABINET WOULD BE FORMED SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD ANNOUNCED HIS PLAN FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. PHALANGE POLITBUREAU MEMBER KARIM PAKRADOUNI AND OTHERS HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT DANY CHAMOUN, AMINE GEMAYEL, WALID JUMBLATT, ASIM QANSUH, AND KAMAL SHATILA WOULD BE OFFERED POSTS IN THE NEW
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CABINET. PAKRADOUNI ALSO SAID THAT SALIM AL-HOSS WOULD REMAIN AS PRIME MINISTER AND THAT FOUAD BOUTROS WOULD REMAIN AS FOREIGN MINISTER BUT PERHAPS NOT AS DEFENSE MINISTER.

5. CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL, HOWEVER, WERE CITED IN THE PRESS ON FEBRUARY 21 AS INDICATING THAT THE TIME DID NOT APPEAR OPPORTUNE FOR A NEW CABINET. SOME EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT CAMILLE CHAMOUN WANTS A MINISTERIAL JOB HIMSELF, AND L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, CITING A "GENERATION GAP," IMPLIED ON FEBRUARY 21 THAT CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL OPPOSED A NEW CABINET IN PART BECAUSE IT WOULD CONSIST OF YOUNGER MEN RATHER THAN THE OLDER, TRADITIONAL LEADERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Retention: 0
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3493486
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION FEBRUARY 17-23
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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